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TOKYO 2020

BHAVINABEN CREATES HISTORY AT PARALYMPICS

Gujarat paddler first Indian to be assured of a medal in the sport, faces China's Zhang for a place in the final on Saturday

IMPAIRED FROM THE WAIST DOWN

Tragedy struck Bhavinaben Patel early on in her life. While learning to walk as a one-year-old, she fell down. During treatment, an injection impaired her from the waist down, according to father Hasmukhbhai Patel. She picked up the sport at the age of 12. In the Tokyo Paralympics, she is also competing in the doubles event. The 34-year-old is confident of reaching the final | P19

TRAINED WITH ROBOT DURING LOCKDOWN

- She trained with a second-hand machine worth ₹50,000 during lockdown before the Class 4 paddler was given a new robot after she was included in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme
- She beat World No 5 Borislava Rankovic 11-5, 11-6, 11-7. ITTF removed bronze medal playoffs after the last Paralympics

₹2.8 lakh

WORTH OF THE NEW EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO BHAVINABEN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Toll 182, Biden vows to avenge

There was 1 suicide bomber, not 2, says Pentagon; evacuation ops continue at Kabul airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AT least 182 people were reportedly killed in Thursday's Kabul terror attack and the tally could go up as many dismembered bodies are yet to be accounted for. Local health officials, quoted by news agency AP, said 169 Afghans were killed. This is over and above the 13 US military personnel died in the attack. The Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital in central Kabul alone received 145 bodies. At least 200 people were reportedly injured in the attack.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon on Friday clarified that the Kabul airport explosion was by a single suicide bomber and that there was no blast near the Baron hotel. "We do not believe there was a second explosion. We felt it was important to correct the record," said US Army Major General William Taylor.

US forces on the ground are on alert with fresh intelligence inputs suggesting more attacks. US Central Command chief General Frank McKenzie said there could be rockets or car bombs targeting the airport.

Earlier in the day, US President Joe Biden vowed to avenge the deaths of Americans. Blaming the lesser known ISIS-K for the attack, Biden said, "We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay."

INDIANS IN AF

Most Indians who wanted to return have been evacuated, MEA said on Friday. There could be a few still stranded in the war-torn country, but the exact number is unknown, it added | P9

Despite the attack, the US continued its evacuation operation at the Kabul airport on Friday. In an early-morning update, the White House said 12,500 people were evacuated in the previous 24 hours, taking the total number of people airlifted abroad since August 14 rose to 105,000.

The UN Security Council, currently being presided over by India, on Friday condemned the Kabul terror strike, adding that the world needs to unite against those who provide sacturies to terrorists. P11

GAME CHANGER

NEP makes Kannada must for first 2 years of degree courses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KANNADA has been made compulsory as one of the two languages to be taught in the first two years of undergraduation under the National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020), while the Higher Education Department said functional Kannada will be taught to students who do not know Kannada. This will include students of foreign nationalities as well.

Kannada will be one of the two languages that students will learn for the first four semesters of the course, said Pradeep P, commissioner of Higher Education.

Functional Kannada will include basic communication skills for students to interact in the language, besides basic understanding of the alphabets, he said.

The model is being replicated from the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), where non-Kannadiga students from first-year engineering — or students who do not know Kannada at all — are given training in functional Kannada, he said.

While students remained confused about the admission process, Pradeep said that the admission module under the Unified University and College Management System (UUCMS) model has been launched this year and the process has been taken offline to allow students to be guided by respective colleges on choosing two core subjects and one open elective.

CONTINUED ON: P2

Draft legislation process is on

Commissioner of Higher Education Pradeep P said draft legislation is in progress for implementation of four verticals, which also include legislation and grants. However, central legislation is also awaited, based on which the state legislation will be structured. Pradeep said universities can make academic changes through regulations.

All classrooms to go 'smart' by yr-end

In a bid to bridge the digital divide, the state's Higher Education Department is looking at establishing 100 per cent smart classrooms by this year-end. Already, 2,500 out of 9,000 classrooms have been made high-tech. Commissioner of Higher Education Pradeep P said the department is talking to the government for funding. Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan said students are being provided with gadgets and institutes have been asked to have internet facilities

ELEVATED

Justice Satish Chandra Sharma is acting K'taka CJ

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

JUSTICE Satish Chandra Sharma, the senior-most judge of Karnataka High Court, has been appointed as the acting chief justice with effect from the date Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka relinquishes charge, stated a notification by the Ministry of Justice on Friday.

Justices Oka and BV Nagarathna, who have been appointed judges of the Supreme Court, were given a farewell on Friday.

Justice Oka said the two years three months he served in Karnataka are memorable, though he served as a judge in Mumbai for many years. It is historic for Karnataka to see two of its judges being sworn in as judges of the Supreme Court. He appreciated members of the Bar, saying they knew where to start arguments and when to stop. P5

Baghel gets a Priyanka lifeline till UP elections

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

CHHATTISGARH Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will retain his seat for now though the power tussle in the state is far from over. After a three-hour long meeting with former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Baghel said: "I have told Rahul Gandhi my *dil ki baat* (heart's desire). He is coming to Chhattisgarh next week and will visit Bastar to see the work done by the government."

Sources said the decision came after Priyanka backed Baghel, an OBC leader, while Rahul insisted that he abide by the promise made to T S Singh Deo. A senior party leader said Priyanka was of the view that changing Baghel just ahead of the crucial Assembly elections, especially Uttar Pradesh, will not go down well with the backward class vote bank.

Flanked by party incharge for the state P L Punia, Baghel did not give a direct response to the claim of rotational CM by his cabinet colleague Deo.

"The problem is not over yet and the party would have to address Deo's concerns. Rahul ji's proposed visit needs to be also looked at from that perspective," said a state party leader.

In a show of strength, Baghel came to Delhi with over 50 MLAs and met Congress leaders K C Venugopal and Punia.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel greets Rahul Gandhi in Delhi on Friday

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

August 26: 67,87,305 doses
August 27: 1,00,64,032 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 62,17,08,832

NATIONWIDE	AUG 26	AUG 27
Fresh cases	46,164	44,658
Recoveries	34,159	32,988
Deaths	607	496

KARNATAKA	AUG 26	AUG 27
Fresh cases	1,213	1,301
Recoveries	1,206	1,614
Deaths	25	17

EXPRESS READ

1 crore jabs in a day

New Delhi: India on Friday administered 1,00,64,032 vaccine doses, the highest ever in a single day, the Cowin dashboard showed at 10:30 pm. With this, India's vaccination coverage has crossed 62 crore. "Kudos to those getting vaccinated and those making the vaccination drive a success," the PM tweeted.

Model curriculum to be out in Sept first week

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

DAYS after the government rolled out the National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) to first-year undergraduate students on August 23, the higher education department is planning to roll out the model curriculum under the policy. Commissioner of Higher Education Pradeep P said the model curriculum will be made public in the first week of September.

Efforts are on to give shape to a curriculum that helps build a well-rounded personality, develop the creative potential of each individual, foundational and higher-order capabilities, and enhance skills and abilities. Thirty-five sub-committees have been formed, headed by vice-chancellors of various universities with subject experts among their members. Pradeep said the new model curriculum will deviate just about 10-15 percent from the present one. He said skill and ability courses are being structured and will also be added to the curriculum. These will be courses like digital fluency, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, new technological developments and financial literacy. P2

Police suspect four engg students in gangrape case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

THE police, investigating the gangrape of a girl student in the city, suspect the involvement of four engineering students, who are from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, sources said. Police teams have been dispatched to nab the culprits, who are said to be on the run somewhere in the two neighbouring states, highly placed sources said. A special investigation team zeroed in on the students after collecting technical and other vital evidence.

The police suspect the involvement of these students as the cell phone tower data indicated that they were at the spot at the time of the crime. When the police checked with the college where the accused are studying, it was found that they have remained absent from college and have not taken the exams since Wednesday. Meanwhile, Karnataka DG&IGP Praveen Sood, who rushed from New Delhi to Mysuru, said, "We want to give enough space to the victim to return to normal. We are hopeful of her cooperation with the investigation once she is out of trauma." REPORTS: P4

Remove netas' photos from public project sites, or else... officials warned

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

IMAGES of local elected representatives and political leaders beaming from posters at government project sites in towns and cities in the State could just be a thing of the past. The joint secretary of the urban development department, taking the issue seriously, has warned of even FIRs at police stations against politicians trying to take political mileage out of projects funded by public money.

A detailed order specifies that it is applicable to all boards and corporations, mahanagara palikes, urban development authorities, urban planning authorities and other urban local bodies. "However, photos of the President, Prime Minister, Chief Justice, Governor, Chief Minister and Gandhiji can be used," the circular stated. CONTINUED ON: P4